



Corrog Wood

Management Plan 2017-2022

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Corrog Wood
Location:	Portaferry
Grid reference:	J601529, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 21
Area:	5.49 hectares (13.57 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Corrog Wood lies in a particularly scenic part of County Down. Enjoy a walk through the young woodland, and keep an eye out for buzzards and Irish hares, as well as a sculpture of a tree spirit known locally as 'The Frump'.

2.2 Extended Description

This planting is one mile north of Portaferry village on the Deerpark Road from Newtownards, on the Ards peninsula in County Down. The fields were bought under WoyD and have been planted to form a native mixed woodland of 5.49 ha extent. There is a small meadow at the entrance contains species such as spearwort and knapweed which provides a vital source for a variety of pollinating insects e.g. common carder and white-tailed bumblebee, specked wood, green-veined white and small tortoiseshell butterflies. There is a striking Dryad or wood nymph sculpture at the gateway which catches peoples attention, this is known locally as the 'Frump in the Stump'. A brass etched plate biodiversity "tree trail" guides you around the looped path with a sketched map at the entrance indicating each point along the way. This was provided in part by funding aquired by the Strangford and Lecale Partnership.

The hill has two viewpoints, both with seats and one with two oak trees as a memorial to a local lady. The rolling nature of the area offers views to Strangford Lough, Ballyherly Windmill and the Portaferry estates with their planted and mixed woodlands. The rough meadow grass which is now found amongst the trees and to the entrance, many raptors e.g. buzzards and sparrowhawks and Irish Hares use it for foraging. The ponded habitat to the west of the site continues to provide a haven for common darter and four-spot chaser dragonflies. The access is via a gravel car park, a gate and a looped grass path through the wood.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access is available from the Deerpark Road which is the main public highway from Newtownards to Portaferry. The site is one mile north of Portaferry near to Cowey Lough.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention is to establish the new planting as a high forest of mixed native woodland with a few wide rides, small areas as viewpoints and to continue to look for opportunities where possible to extend the woodland.

The future management will require us to maintain the boundaries of fences and hedges, because of livestock in the neighbouring fields.

The site will be managed to achieve a high forest with a secondary woodland developing over time. The canopy in some areas of the woodland is starting to close where an assessment will take place for the need of a first thin and widen paths where needed to allow for stand stability, sustainability, resillience and a diverse structure. However careful consideration will be taken as the sites primary role is its access value.

At present regular grass cutting is carried out on the paths, in the open areas and around the seats. This will be reviewed when the tree canopy closes. The millennium feature, information board, and welcome signage all need to be maintained with wood preservative every 5 years , with any mildew removed from them. Weed control where necessary will be carried out around the car park and entrance, as and when required, in order to keep the entrance of the wood attractive for visitors.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

Public access and enjoyment of woods is a trust corporate objective. The main access here is from a small car park off the main road /Deerpark road. A loop path follows the top of the small hill and views farmland down to Portaferry House woods, Ballyherly Windmill and the Strangford Lough. A Dryad sculpture can be found to the right of the entrance.

Significance

To Portaferry there is a tourist route down the Ards peninsula which passes this gateway. The car park and path around the wood retain the access & the sculpture and signs attract attention and the "tree trail" is part of an already existing heritage trail along the strangford and lecale way. The site already has a brown tourist sign on route from Newtownards to Portaferry. This wood fulfills the trust objective of public enjoyment and awareness of a new native woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

The path is of mown grass, no other paths joining it to the wider area -so you have to drive to the wood, however it is possible for Portaferry residents to cycle from the town out to the site.

Constraints:

The grass in this part of the country grows extremely vigorously, hence the rich farmland surrounding the site.

Funding

Factors Causing Change

Climate, tree growth, tree disease, number of users

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term aim is toward a mixed community woodland with access off the main road into the parking area. A path will exist through the wood and the boundary will be maintained. To continue to look for opportunities to link the woodland to adjacent walkways e.g. strangford and lecale way and promote the site through neighbouring landowners e.g. National Trust

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

To continue to manage the paths for public access and to increase the frequency of cutting of the paths where necessary and funds allow. To maintain open rides that run east to west through the site and repair and manage paths where canopy has closed to maintain access. The car park is to be checked for litter and gravel repairs annually. To continue to work with stakeholders and local council in the control, awareness and reduction in dog fouling through responsible dog ownership.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

5.49ha of new native woodland were planted in March 2000 as part of the Woods on Your Doorstep community woodland creation project. Native tree species were selected with the majority being Oak and Ash, with some hazel, scots pine, silver birch and rowan.

Significance

It is obvious from the view points from Corrog Wood that there aren't many wooded areas in the landscape, and the woods that you see are part of private estates, so it will provide a wooded walk in an area of green fields, connecting through managed and retained hedgerows where possible. This wood fulfills the trust objective of public enjoyment and awareness of a new native woodland, to inspire new ambassadors to be the voice for trees and woods.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities - the creation of a new woodland with public access for public enjoyment.

To extend the woodland through new planting, should any land become available in the area.

To look at the possibilities of working with landowners through one million trees, woodland creation grants and or National Trust and restoring hedgerows as links to surrounding estate woodland.

Constraints - very few people live near this site and no other public paths link into the wood - so the majority of people have to drive to it. It is however possible to cycle from Portaferry town.

Funding

Factors Causing Change

Climate, tree growth, tree disease

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To encourage the development of a sustainable, resilient, structurally and species diverse woodland with public access and a favourable habitat condition for local biodiversity. Where possible look for potential planting areas and linking this habitat with other existing woodland and open habitats within the landscape.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

The site is currently under assessment in terms of the woodland rides (paths) and the structural and species diversity in terms of the woodlands long term health and resilience in relation to ash dieback and other new pests and diseases. This site has a good diversity of species so a decision will be made whether to undertake a first thin to encourage a healthy and sustainable structure and look at the possibility of planting an understory e.g. holly, hazel, etc.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	5.60	Oak (sessile)	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mature hedges surround two large previously grazed fields on one of the drumlin hills on the Ards peninsula. These were planted in March 2000 with 12,000 native trees, mainly oak, ash and alder. A 370m hedge of hawthorn and rose was planted in the south to border the farm lane.

GLOSSARY

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.